



**August 23, 2016**

## **State Economic Snapshots**

This monthly report provides a snapshot of the status of the economic recovery in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. This month's snapshots include state-level data on jobs, unemployment and earnings through July 2016.<sup>1</sup>

### **Highlights**

- Private-sector employment increased in 37 states and the District of Columbia in July.
- The unemployment rate fell in 14 states.
- Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased in 43 states and the District of Columbia over the year between the first quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016.
- Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 41 states over the past year.

### **Private-Sector Job Gains**

Private-sector employment increased in 37 states and the District of Columbia in July. The largest private-sector gains were in California (38,800), New York (36,200), Florida (26,500), Texas (24,500) and Colorado (11,100). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Vermont, Idaho, Colorado, Maine and New York.

Over the past 12 months, 43 states and the District of Columbia gained private-sector jobs, with California (330,000), Florida (232,000), Texas (134,000), New York (112,600) and Georgia (111,500) recording the largest increases. The largest percentage gains in private-sector employment during this period were in Idaho (3.6 percent), Oregon (3.5 percent), Florida, Utah (3.3 percent each) and Washington (3.2 percent). Nationally, 2.3 million private-sector jobs were added in the past year, a 1.9 percent increase.

### **Unemployment**

The unemployment rate declined in 14 states in July. The declines were statistically significant in Illinois, Alabama and North Carolina. Seven states had statistically significant increases in the unemployment rate from the prior month.

Over the past 12 months, 30 states and the District of Columbia reported declines in the unemployment rate. Ten states and the District of Columbia had declines that were statistically significant, with the largest of these declines in Arkansas, Tennessee (-1.3 percentage points each), West Virginia (-1.2 percentage points), North Carolina (-1.0 percentage point) and the District of Columbia (-0.9 percentage point). Three states had increases that were statistically significant.

South Dakota (2.8 percent) had the lowest unemployment rate in July, followed by New Hampshire (2.9 percent), North Dakota, Nebraska (3.1 percent each) and Vermont (3.2 percent). Alaska (6.7 percent)

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<sup>1</sup> Individual monthly readings should be interpreted with caution and in the context of longer-term trends and other data that become available. Changes in state-level data from month to month may not be statistically significant due to sampling variation, which occurs because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed.

had the highest unemployment rate, followed by Nevada (6.5 percent), New Mexico (6.4 percent), Louisiana (6.3 percent), Arizona and Mississippi (6.0 percent each). The national unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in July, down from 5.3 percent one year ago.

### **State Gross Domestic Product**

Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased in 43 states and the District of Columbia over the year between the first quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. GDP increased fastest in New Hampshire (4.1 percent), Tennessee (4.0 percent), Maine, South Dakota and Washington (3.7 percent each). Seven states reported declines in GDP over the year. Nationally, real GDP by state increased by 2.1 percent during this period.<sup>2</sup>

As seen in the **table on page 5**, over the past three years (between the first quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2016), real GDP increased in the District of Columbia and every state but Alaska and Wyoming. Alaska and Wyoming are also the only states to record negative GDP growth since the second quarter of 2009, when the Great Recession officially ended at the national level.

Energy producing states which benefited directly from the natural gas boom have recorded the strongest GDP growth since the second quarter of 2009, as well as over the entire recession and recovery period (from the fourth quarter of 2007 to the first quarter of 2016). This is despite slowing or negative growth in the past year. North Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Colorado rank 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively, for fastest growth during the past 6 ¾ years. The same states rank 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> for average annual growth since the fourth quarter of 2007, the prerecession peak for GDP at the national level.

As the natural gas boom waned, the North Dakota and Oklahoma economies contracted over the past year, experiencing GDP declines of 7.0 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively, between the first quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016. North Dakota's economy shrank at a faster rate than any other state's over that period. Texas, which recorded average annual GDP growth of 3.7 percent over the past 6 ¾ years, saw growth slow to 0.2 percent over the last year, for a ranking of 44<sup>th</sup> in the country.

Several states hit hard by the housing crash still have not returned to their prerecession GDP levels. While the state economies in Florida, Nevada and Arizona have strengthened recently (with real GDP growth ranking 7<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, respectively, over the past year), average annual GDP growth since the fourth quarter of 2007 is negative in Nevada and Arizona and zero in Florida. Only two other states have real GDPs that remain below their fourth quarter 2007 levels. By contrast, California, which also was hit hard by the housing bust, has surpassed its prerecession GDP peak, ranking 11<sup>th</sup> for GDP growth in the past year, 1<sup>st</sup> in the past three years, 6<sup>th</sup> in the past 6 ¾ years and 13<sup>th</sup> since the national prerecession peak in the fourth quarter of 2007.

### **Earnings**

Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, increased in 41 states over the past year. The largest earnings gains were posted in Delaware (6.1 percent), Alabama (4.9 percent), Oregon (4.7 percent), North Carolina (4.5 percent) and Rhode Island (4.2 percent). Earnings declined in 9 states and the District of Columbia. Nationally, real average hourly earnings increased by 1.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted) in the past year. The District of Columbia (\$37.91) had the highest average hourly earnings in July, followed by Massachusetts (\$30.82), Connecticut (\$30.15), Washington (\$29.97), and New York (\$28.92).

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<sup>2</sup> Due to methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state may differ slightly from headline national GDP figures.

## Key Employment Sectors

### *Manufacturing*

Manufacturing employment expanded in 22 states during July. The largest increases were in California (7,100), Michigan (6,100), Ohio (2,600), Georgia and Missouri (2,500 each). On a percentage basis, the largest gains were in Wyoming, Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky and Utah.

Over the past 12 months, 23 states added manufacturing positions. On a percentage basis, the biggest gains were in Florida (3.4 percent), Utah (3.2 percent), Michigan (3.1 percent), Tennessee (3.0 percent) and Rhode Island (2.9 percent). Across the country, 31,000 manufacturing positions have been lost in the last 12 months, a 0.3 percent decrease.

### *Construction*

Construction employment increased in 23 states and the District of Columbia during July. The largest gains were reported in Texas (7,800), Pennsylvania (3,900), Florida (3,100), Colorado and Tennessee (2,600 each). The largest percentage gains during the month were in Idaho, New Hampshire, Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee.

In the past 12 months, 39 states added construction jobs. The greatest percentage gains over the past year were in Iowa (16.5 percent), Hawaii (12.9 percent), Idaho (12.6 percent), Colorado (10.9 percent) and Arizona (8.6 percent). Nationally, over this period, construction employment increased by 215,000 positions, a 3.3 percent increase.

### *Professional and Business Services*

Professional and business services employment increased in 30 states during July. The largest increases were posted in Florida (12,100), Texas (10,000), Maryland (6,200), California (5,700) and Michigan (5,000). The largest percentage gains were in Montana, Vermont, Maryland, North Dakota and Rhode Island.

In the past year, 41 states and the District of Columbia added jobs in professional and business services. The largest percentage gains were in Delaware (8.2 percent), Oregon (7.5 percent), South Carolina (5.5 percent), Michigan (5.2 percent) and Georgia (5.1 percent). The U.S. economy overall has added 550,000 professional and business services jobs during this time, a 2.8 percent increase.

Unemployment Rate (July 2016)	
South Dakota	2.8%
New Hampshire	2.9%
Nebraska	3.1%
North Dakota	3.1%
Vermont	3.2%
Hawaii	3.5%
Virginia	3.7%
Colorado	3.8%
Idaho	3.8%
Arkansas	3.9%
Maine	3.9%
Minnesota	3.9%
Utah	3.9%
Iowa	4.1%
Kansas	4.1%
Massachusetts	4.1%
Montana	4.2%
Wisconsin	4.2%
Delaware	4.3%
Maryland	4.3%
Tennessee	4.3%
Michigan	4.5%
Indiana	4.6%
Texas	4.6%
Florida	4.7%
Missouri	4.7%
New York	4.7%
North Carolina	4.7%
Ohio	4.8%
Kentucky	4.9%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
Georgia	5.0%
Oklahoma	5.0%
New Jersey	5.2%
Oregon	5.2%
South Carolina	5.2%
California	5.5%
Rhode Island	5.5%
Pennsylvania	5.6%
Alabama	5.7%
Connecticut	5.7%
West Virginia	5.7%
Wyoming	5.7%
Illinois	5.8%
Washington	5.8%
District of Columbia	5.9%
Arizona	6.0%
Mississippi	6.0%
Louisiana	6.3%
New Mexico	6.4%
Nevada	6.5%
Alaska	6.7%
Puerto Rico	11.4%

Job Growth in America: Change in Private-Sector Jobs				
**Data through July 2016**	Since Before Recession (December 2007)		Under President Obama (January 2009)	
	Percentage	Net Jobs	Percentage	Net Jobs
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>6,235,000</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>10,798,000</b>
Alabama	-2.9%	-48,000	2.7%	42,200
Alaska	8.6%	20,300	8.0%	19,000
Arizona	2.2%	48,800	10.2%	212,200
Arkansas	1.7%	17,200	4.5%	43,800
California	7.9%	1,022,000	13.3%	1,641,800
Colorado	10.9%	215,600	14.1%	270,600
Connecticut	0.2%	2,300	3.1%	43,400
Delaware	4.8%	18,000	9.3%	33,800
District of Columbia	14.1%	65,700	13.5%	63,300
Florida	6.7%	457,800	15.3%	964,400
Georgia	6.7%	231,900	12.6%	414,900
Hawaii	4.1%	20,800	10.2%	48,700
Idaho	6.6%	35,400	13.7%	69,000
Illinois	1.0%	50,600	4.9%	240,300
Indiana	3.2%	82,700	9.2%	223,200
Iowa	4.2%	52,900	6.3%	78,300
Kansas	1.1%	12,200	2.1%	23,200
Kentucky	2.9%	44,200	7.6%	112,100
Louisiana	5.1%	79,900	5.8%	90,300
Maine	0.5%	2,800	3.6%	18,200
Maryland	4.0%	86,200	7.4%	151,900
Massachusetts	8.1%	233,300	10.7%	301,800
Michigan	4.1%	149,200	13.5%	446,600
Minnesota	5.3%	125,500	8.2%	188,300
Mississippi	-2.1%	-19,200	2.7%	23,800
Missouri	0.8%	19,400	3.7%	85,700
Montana	3.5%	12,700	7.5%	25,800
Nebraska	5.1%	41,200	6.3%	50,400
Nevada	0.3%	3,000	9.5%	98,500
New Hampshire	3.9%	21,900	6.5%	35,400
New Jersey	1.0%	35,200	4.9%	163,000
New Mexico	-2.0%	-13,100	1.5%	9,200
New York	9.5%	691,600	11.4%	811,600
North Carolina	4.2%	144,800	10.2%	332,300
North Dakota	24.4%	70,000	23.0%	66,700
Ohio	2.1%	99,400	7.1%	314,700
Oklahoma	2.6%	32,700	3.6%	44,900
Oregon	6.0%	86,800	12.9%	174,300
Pennsylvania	2.6%	129,200	4.9%	243,700
Puerto Rico	-8.1%	-59,000	-4.1%	-28,100
Rhode Island	1.5%	6,400	6.1%	24,900
South Carolina	5.5%	87,400	12.0%	180,700
South Dakota	7.7%	25,500	7.8%	26,000
Tennessee	6.2%	148,200	12.0%	270,900
Texas	15.4%	1,350,600	16.1%	1,404,600
Utah	12.2%	128,500	17.9%	179,900
Vermont	2.4%	6,000	5.5%	13,500
Virginia	3.6%	111,500	6.5%	196,000
Washington	8.7%	214,800	12.1%	288,900
West Virginia	-2.1%	-13,100	-1.2%	-7,600
Wisconsin	2.6%	64,700	5.8%	138,600
Wyoming	-7.5%	-17,000	-7.1%	-16,100

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth by State								
	Past Year (Q1 2015 to Q1 2016)		Past 3 Years (Q1 2013 to Q1 2016)		Since National Low Point (Q2 2009 to Q1 2016)		Since National Prerecession Peak (Q4 2007 to Q1 2016)	
	% Change	Rank	Average Annual % Change	Rank	Average Annual % Change	Rank	Average Annual % Change	Rank
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>2.1%</b>		<b>2.1%</b>		<b>1.9%</b>		<b>1.0%</b>	
Alabama	1.3%	36	1.2%	32	1.3%	34	0.5%	38
Alaska	-1.7%	48	-2.6%	51	-0.7%	50	0.9%	20
Arizona	1.8%	29	1.5%	26	1.3%	34	-0.4%	48
Arkansas	3.6%	6	2.2%	13	2.2%	13	0.9%	20
California	3.2%	11	3.6%	1	2.4%	6	1.2%	13
Colorado	2.4%	22	3.3%	2	2.5%	3	1.6%	6
Connecticut	0.7%	40	0.7%	46	0.4%	47	-0.8%	50
Delaware	1.4%	33	2.6%	7	1.0%	40	0.9%	20
District of Columbia	1.9%	27	1.8%	20	1.4%	30	1.4%	10
Florida	3.5%	7	2.8%	4	1.7%	24	0.0%	46
Georgia	3.0%	14	2.3%	11	1.6%	27	0.6%	33
Hawaii	1.4%	33	1.0%	40	1.4%	30	0.6%	33
Idaho	1.8%	29	2.2%	13	1.5%	29	0.3%	42
Illinois	0.8%	39	1.1%	35	1.1%	38	0.3%	42
Indiana	2.6%	19	1.7%	21	2.3%	8	0.6%	33
Iowa	0.6%	41	1.0%	40	2.0%	16	0.9%	20
Kansas	0.4%	43	0.7%	46	1.4%	30	0.6%	33
Kentucky	2.6%	19	1.1%	35	1.9%	17	0.8%	29
Louisiana	-0.1%	45	0.9%	43	0.4%	47	0.5%	38
Maine	3.7%	3	0.8%	44	0.4%	47	0.0%	46
Maryland	1.4%	33	1.4%	29	1.3%	34	1.0%	16
Massachusetts	1.1%	38	1.5%	26	1.8%	21	1.0%	16
Michigan	2.9%	15	1.5%	26	2.3%	8	0.4%	41
Minnesota	0.5%	42	2.3%	11	2.3%	8	1.3%	11
Mississippi	2.3%	24	0.5%	48	0.7%	44	0.1%	45
Missouri	1.9%	27	1.1%	35	0.9%	42	0.5%	38
Montana	1.5%	32	2.1%	17	2.3%	8	1.3%	11
Nebraska	1.7%	31	1.2%	32	2.5%	3	1.8%	5
Nevada	2.8%	16	2.4%	10	0.9%	42	-0.9%	51
New Hampshire	4.1%	1	1.7%	21	1.8%	21	0.8%	29
New Jersey	2.7%	17	1.3%	30	1.0%	40	0.2%	44
New Mexico	-0.1%	45	1.0%	40	0.6%	46	0.7%	31
New York	3.1%	12	1.6%	25	1.7%	24	1.5%	8
North Carolina	3.1%	12	2.5%	8	1.4%	30	0.9%	20
North Dakota	-7.0%	51	0.8%	44	6.3%	1	6.2%	1
Ohio	2.3%	24	2.2%	13	2.3%	8	0.9%	20
Oklahoma	-3.0%	49	1.7%	21	2.5%	3	2.0%	4
Oregon	3.4%	8	2.5%	8	1.9%	17	1.6%	6
Pennsylvania	1.3%	36	1.9%	18	1.7%	24	1.0%	16
Rhode Island	2.0%	26	1.2%	32	1.2%	37	0.7%	31
South Carolina	2.7%	17	2.2%	13	1.8%	21	0.6%	33
South Dakota	3.7%	3	1.3%	30	1.9%	17	2.1%	3
Tennessee	4.0%	2	1.7%	21	2.2%	13	1.1%	15
Texas	0.2%	44	3.0%	3	3.7%	2	2.8%	2
Utah	3.3%	10	2.8%	4	2.4%	6	1.5%	8
Vermont	2.6%	19	1.1%	35	1.6%	27	0.9%	20
Virginia	3.4%	8	1.1%	35	1.1%	38	0.9%	20
Washington	3.7%	3	2.8%	4	2.1%	15	1.2%	13
West Virginia	-1.5%	47	0.3%	49	0.7%	44	0.9%	20
Wisconsin	2.4%	22	1.9%	18	1.9%	17	1.0%	16
Wyoming	-3.3%	50	-0.5%	50	-1.2%	51	-0.5%	49

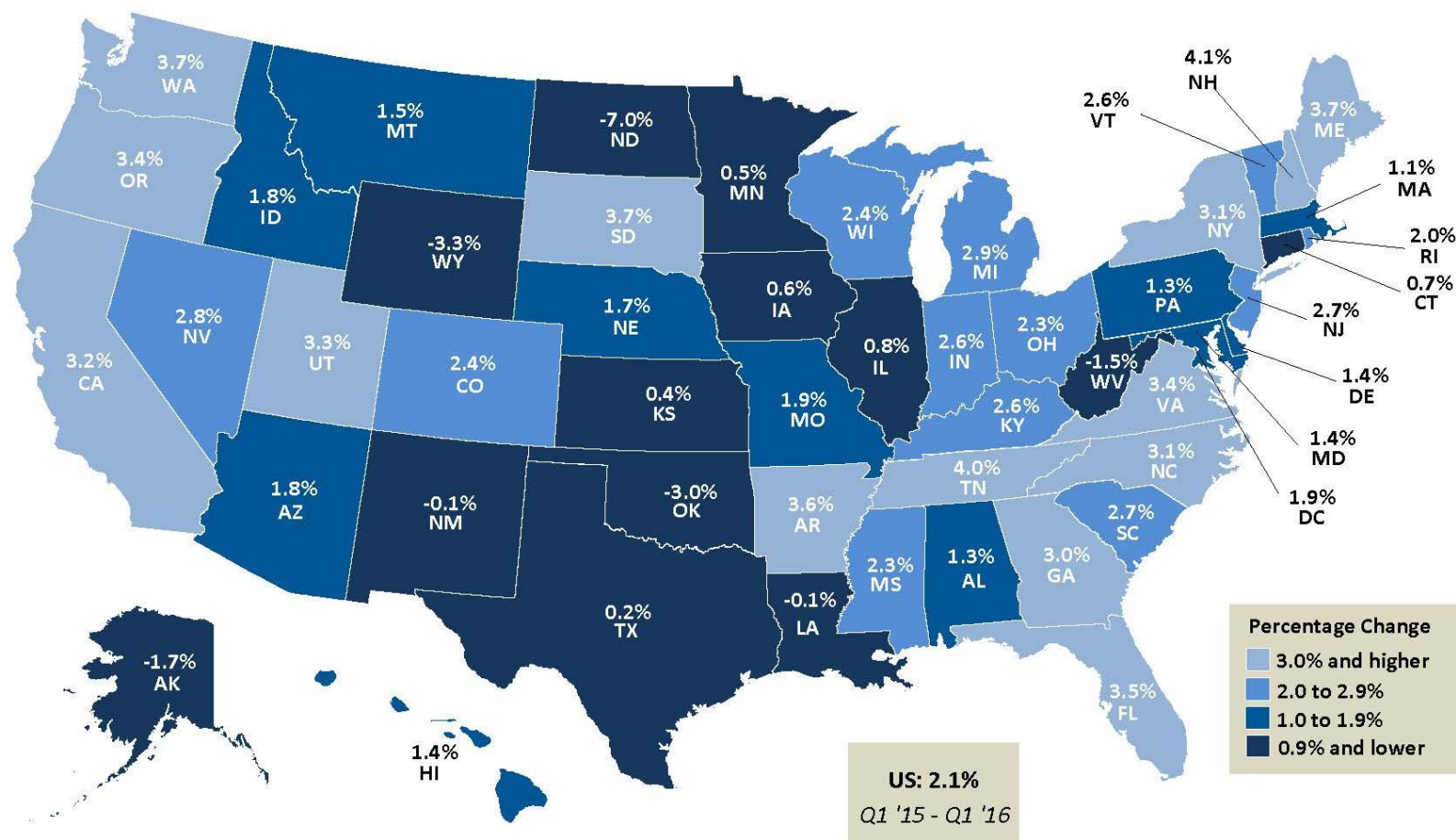
Source: JEC Democratic staff calculations based on data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis

Notes: Includes data through Q1 2016; national GDP prerecession peak in Q4 2007 and low point in Q2 2009 do not necessarily correspond to the peaks and low points in each individual state; ranks are among the 50 states and the District of Columbia and are based on the average annual percentage change rounded to one decimal place; data are seasonally adjusted; due to methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state may differ slightly from national GDP figures



# Real GDP by State: Percentage Change Over Past Year

Q1 2015 to Q1 2016 (Released July 27, 2016)



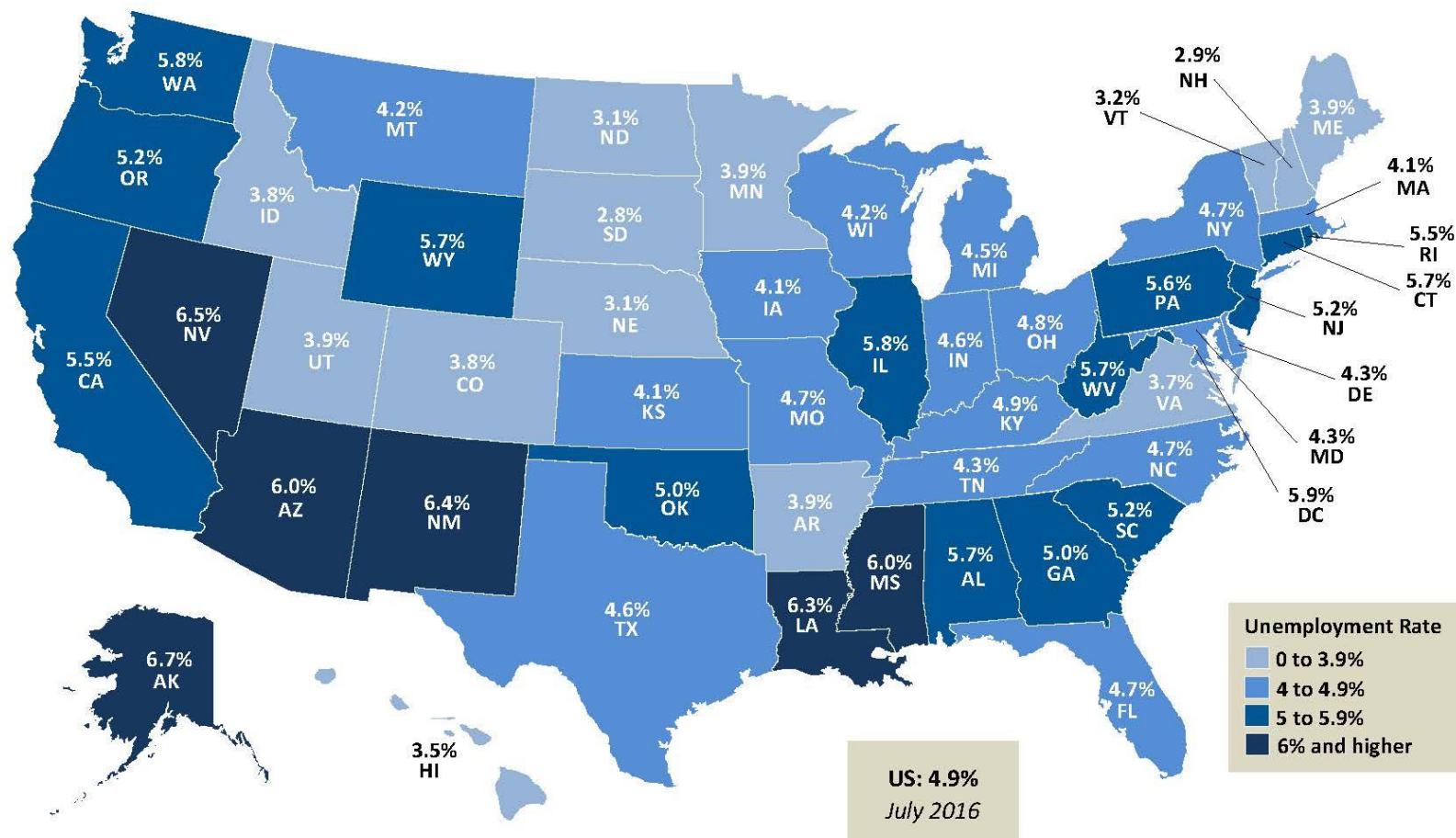
**Source:** JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (Q2 2016 data will be released December 7th)

**Note:** Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state may differ slightly from headline national GDP figures



# Current Unemployment Rates Across States

July 2016 (Released August 19th)



Source: JEC Democratic staff based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (state data update next on September 20, 2016)

